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COOLING ARRAY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a cooling array with a housing receiving built-in electrical components and with an air conditioning arrangement, which is connected with a heat source of the built-in electrical components via a coolant-conducting inflow line and an outflow line, wherein several component inlet lines branch off the inflow line and several component outflow lines branch off the outflow line, at least one component inlet line and at least one component outflow line is assigned to a built-in electrical component, and an inlet line and a return flow line branch off the air conditioning arrangement and are connected to the inflow line and the outflow line.

Discussion of Related Art

A cooling arrangement is taught by U.S. Patent 4,514,746. With this known structure the individual lines, which the connection with the air conditioning device and the consumers, for example the built-in electrical components which are to be cooled, represent a complete system which is designed for a clearly defined number of built-in components. It is thus not possible to change the structure of the cooling arrangement in a simple manner and to reduce and/or increase the number of built-in components.

For obtaining a flexible cooling arrangement, according to this invention the connectors are formed by coupling devices, and the coupling connections are embodied as couplings which can be separated or joined in a dripless manner. The inflow lines and/or the outflow line each is embodied as a rigid profiled leg and forms a guide channel for the coolant, for example water.

The built-in electrical components can be individually connected or disconnected by the coupling devices, without interfering with the remaining circulation of the other built-in components in the cooling arrangement. Also, the inflow and/or outflow lines embodied as rigid profiled legs with guide phases for the coolant can easily be embedded in the switchgear cabinet and are available as connecting options for built-in electrical components over the entire height of the switchgear cabinet.

The inflow and the outflow lines are connected with an air conditioning arrangement, which can be an installation operating in accordance with an evaporation principle.

The component inlet and outflow lines have coupling elements at their ends, which can be joined with correspondingly designed counter-coupling elements to form coupling connections.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is one object of this invention to provide a cooling array of the type mentioned above but which makes possible the air conditioning of complex systems with a multitude of built-in electrical components in a simple manner.

This object is achieved by several component inlet lines branching off the inflow line and several component outflow lines branching off the outflow line. At least one component inlet line and at least one component outflow line is assigned to a built-in electrical component.

With this cooling array it is possible to specifically remove large amounts of heat from a multitude of built-in electrical components. The collection of the removed amounts of heat occurs in the outflow line. It is thus possible to individually connect the built-in electrical components to a component inlet line and a component outflow line. If several heat sources within a built-in component must be cooled, several component inlet lines and component outflow lines can also be connected. A large degree of flexibility is thus achieved.

The inflow line the outflow line are conducted to an air conditioning arrangement that can be operating on the basis of an evaporation principle. For reasons of space, the air conditioning arrangement is preferably arranged outside the housing and exchanges the heat energy removed from the housing with the surroundings. Thus, one advantage of this system is that it is possible to remove

relatively large amounts of heat from the housing. This allows the placement of components in the housing interior in a very compact form.

In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, the component inlet and the component outflow lines have connecting elements at their ends, which can be joined together with corresponding counter-connecting elements to form coupling connections. Transfer points are made available to a user by this arrangement. The user can thus perform the connection of the cooling array with the respective built-in electrical component via the coupling connections.

In one embodiment, the cooling arrangement can be such that an inlet and a return flow line branch off the air conditioning arrangement and are connected to the inflow line and the outflow line, and the connections are formed by coupling connections. In that case the housing can be installed in the form of a system and can be connected simply and quickly with the air conditioning arrangement.

In order to prevent amounts of water which would endanger the built-in electrical components from flowing out near or in the area of the coupling connection during installation operations, the coupling connections are embodied as couplings which can be separated and joined without dripping. This type of a coupling connection also makes it possible to later change an operating cooling array. Accordingly, the built-in electrical components can also be connected or disconnected without problems, while the cooling array is operating.

In one embodiment of this invention, the housing is a switchgear cabinet, in whose rear area forms a receiving space for the vertically extending inflow line and outflow line.

For achieving problem-free ventilation with this arrangement, in the roof area of the housing the inflow line makes a transition into the outflow line via a connecting line, and a ventilating device is integrated into the connecting line.

The available cooling output at a built-in electrical component can be varied in a simple manner if the amount of coolant conducted to the built-in electrical components can be controlled by a governor integrated into the component inlet line or the component outflow line.

In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, the inflow line and/or the outflow line are embodied as rigid profiled legs, which form a guide channel for the coolant, for example water. The profiled leg can be an extruded profiled section.

In accordance with one embodiment, the housing has a support frame with vertical profiled sections, and the inflow line and/or the outflow line each is integrated into at least one profiled section.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

This invention is explained in greater detail in view of exemplary embodiments represented in the drawing that shows a schematic diagram of a cooling array.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The drawing shows a cooling array in a schematic representation in which a vertically extending inflow line 22 and an outflow line 26 are arranged in a housing 10. Built-in electrical components 11 are placed inside the housing 10 and contain heat sources which are to be cooled. Respectively, one component inlet line 23 branches off the inflow line 22, and respectively one component outflow line 27 off the outflow line 26. In this case the built-in electrical components 11, which are switched parallel with each other, are connected to the inflow line 22 or the outflow line 26. The connection of the built-in components 11 is provided by coupling connections 28, which can be joined and separated without dripping.

A governor 30 is integrated into the component outflow line for regulating the cooling output and regulates the amount of flow-through of coolant.

The inflow line 22 and the outflow line 26 are connected to an inlet line 20, or an outflow line 29 via coupling connections 21 and lead to an air conditioning arrangement not shown in the drawing. The heat from the coolant, preferably water, is exchanged in the air conditioning arrangement.

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For providing ventilation of the system, a ventilating device 24 is installed near or in the area of a connecting line 25. The connecting line 25 is arranged near or in the area of the housing roof.